

Dr. John Johnson
January 7-8, 2006
Steps to Getting Right with God
Nehemiah 9

Israel has been on a continual cycle that has brought times of confession, repentance and rejoicing and also great times of distress, pain and enslavement. Here, after the wall has been built in Jerusalem, they gather together and hear the Word of God read to them for hours. The flowing water of the Word seeps deep into their hearts and they begin in Nehemiah 9 to experience brokenness before God.

This has an individual as well as a corporate emphasis. As a church we can go through this cycle. The power and freedom are found as:

- They come back to God in confession, not only individually but corporately
- Second, the confession moves them to repentance (the act of restructuring or change for the good)

Application Questions:

1. What spoke to you out of Pastor Johnson's message on Nehemiah 9?
2. How are we like the Israelites in this cycle of blessing, move to independence from God, rebellion, confession & repentance?
3. As Pastor John illustrated, what could be "log jams" in our lives that keep our "pond" stagnant?
4. How often should confession be happening in your life?
5. What are some present actions for us as individuals to do as we seek change in our own lives to draw us closer to God?
6. Brainstorm some actions that we could do as a body to draw closer to God? (Send those to Pastor Matteson at RichardM@vbconline.org)